



2025 Secretary of the Army Environmental Awards

Cultural Resource Management – Team

U.S. Army Garrison, Hawaii



USAG-HI Team Members on both islands. Left photo (O'ahu): (from left to right) Hillary Burt, David Crowley, Laura Gilda, Caleb Barney, Jesse Gunnels, Dr. Brian Padgett, Elizabeth Johnson, Katherine West, Kaitlyn Lowrance, Monica Rowell, Lisa Cipolla. Right photo (Hawai'i): Ana Tejada-Pelkey, Amberle Czubernat, Lyle Auld, Adam Thomas, Heidi Miller. (Not pictured: Kimberly Biela, Robert Kaplan, Kara Allison, Rob Nethken, Dr. Jesse Otto).

Introduction

U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii (USAG-HI) consists of 22 installations spread across the islands of Hawai'i and O'ahu. The Garrison is headquartered at the historic Wheeler Army Airfield on O'ahu, and supports installation facilities, training ranges, services, housing, schools, and recreational centers for a population of over 98,000 personnel including Soldiers, families, and civilians.

The Cultural Resources Management Program (CRMP) at USAG-HI is one of the larger and more complex programs in the Department of Defense (DoD). USAG-HI manages approximately 168,000 acres of land with over 2000 historic buildings, five historic districts, three National Historic Landmarks (NHL), over 1800 recorded archaeological sites, and more than 10,000 artifacts in its collections. The CRMP routinely consults with more than 75 Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs), the Hawaii State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the National Park Service (NPS), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). There are an additional 20 interested parties with whom the Garrison consults regarding the preservation of historic properties on Army lands.

Approximately 20% of the Army managed lands is leased from the State of Hawai'i for military training. In addition to navigating multiple jurisdictions, three of the training ranges contain munitions and explosives of concern (MEC), Chemical Warfare Munitions (CWM), and/or Depleted Uranium (DU), contributing to the challenges for monitoring and protecting cultural resources, particularly those of importance as identified through consultation with Native Hawaiians.

JUDGING CRITERIA



Program Management



Technical Merit



Orientation to Mission



Transferability



Stakeholder Interaction



Impact/Outcome





The CRMP has successfully developed procedures in coordination with Range Division Hawaii, and the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Company (EOD), for UXO training to staff and consulting parties, and safely providing access for traditional cultural practitioners and NHOs to visit sites of cultural importance.



Background

Led by the Cultural Resources Program Manager, David Crowley, the CRMP team consists of 11 Department of Army Civilian (DAC) archaeologists and historians (currently 2 vacancies), and 12 cultural resources specialists through a cooperative agreement with Colorado State University, Center for Environmental Management on Military Lands (CEMML). Two of the DAC archaeologists are embedded with a newly established USAG Hawaii Infrastructure Task Force (HITF). The program is split between O‘ahu and Hawai‘i islands, with the main CRMP Office located at Schofield Barracks on O‘ahu, and a satellite office at Pōhakuloa Training Area on Hawai‘i island.



During the award period, the CRMP was very understaffed due to retirements and hiring shortages, being down to three DAC staff at one point, yet the team was able to maintain compliance while continuing to support the military mission. Creative



programming such as acquiring additional seasonal staff through a cooperative agreement, utilizing interns on a temporary basis through the DoD Fellows program, volunteers, and assistance from Installation Management Command of additional DAC support on temporary duty assignment, the Garrison was able to achieve successes in cultural resources management. After an intensive hiring outreach effort, the CRMP was able to fill four of the DAC vacancies during the award period, while continuing to

successfully manage cultural resources compliance and Native Hawaiian relations.

Accomplishments

During the award period, the CRMP accomplished the following:

1. Successfully completed a Memorandum of Agreement with SHPO, Island Palm Communities, and ACHP for the renovation and upgrades of Quarters 12 in the Palm Circle National Historic Landmark District, improving the functionality of the living quarters for Officers and their families, while maintaining the historic characteristics and significance of the structure for long-term preservation.
2. Completed NAGPRA consultations with Hawaiian lineal descendants for human remains (*iwi kapuna*) recovered at Pīlilaau Army Recreation Center (PARC) and developed a Plan of Action (POA). The CRMP Team’s efforts culminated in closure with the final internment ceremony of the *iwi kapuna* in the designated reburial crypts at PARC.
3. Completed NAGPRA consultations with Hawaiian lineal descendants and cultural affiliates resulting in two POA’s at PTA and pending closure on a repatriation and are finalizing a fourth POA for Kahuku Training Area on O‘ahu.
4. Entered into a partnership with the Hawaiian Civic Club of Wahiawā to conduct a Traditional Cultural Property study for documenting and understanding significant Hawaiian places as described by Traditional Cultural Practitioners on the island of O‘ahu.
5. Supported a Defense Legacy project for an innovative approach for digital work to create 3D photogrammetry imagery using simple and accessible technology. While implementing the project, the CRMP was able to use 3D imagery to provide virtual access to elderly (*kapuna*)



that were unable to physically access cultural sites.



6. The CRMP has successfully implemented two Programmatic Agreements for Military Training, and trained all CRMP staff members to serve as escorts into areas with Unexploded Ordinance (UXO) to provide cultural accesses for consulting parties into duded impacted areas.

7. Conducted a Cultural Awareness Training for the 425th Civil Affairs Battalion teaching about places of historical and religious significance and the importance of site protection for Soldiers' situational awareness, whether training at home or deployed abroad.

8. Upgraded existing staffing grade levels and position descriptions to build a stronger program and improve staff recruitment and retention.

9. Curation upgrades in FY23-24 included relocating all collections at PTA to a new compliant facility, re-housing 29 boxes of artifacts recovered from State-leased lands, upgrading 62 boxes of collections at Schofield Barracks, and developing a new draft Collections Management Plan.

10. Administered a very successful and active cultural access program, providing over 50 escorted visits per year for Native Hawaiian Organizations by request. The program facilitated accesses for cultural practitioners and lineal descendants to visit cultural sites of traditional, historical, and religious significance in the training ranges, including the duded impact areas.

Historic Buildings and Structures

Over the award period, the CRMP Team has been able to revise the Historic Properties Inventory and update the database for all properties including those covered by recent Program Comments for Vietnam War Era Historic Housing and Pre-1919 Historic

Housing. USAG-HI manages almost 2,000 buildings and structures that are over 45 years old, and still utilizes most of them for their original purpose which they were built. These include the Historic Landmark Districts of Wheeler Field NHL and Palm Circle NHL, as well as the Opana Radar Site National Historic Landmark. Five additional National Register Historic Districts include Schofield Barracks, Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii Ordnance Depot, and Wheeler Garden City on O'ahu. On Hawai'i island the USAG-HI manages the Kilauea Military Camp Historic District. While a majority of the historic structures are maintained and still actively used, USAG-HI was able to successfully apply the Army Inter-War Housing Program Comment during the award period, to address the need to demolish 15 vacant homes at Fort Shafter determined hazardous due to lead-based paint and asbestos. Additional successes include renovations of Quarters 12 built in 1907 in the Palm Circle NHL District, and new historic significance evaluations conducted for 28 potable water structures with a finding of one water treatment building built in 1938 as Eligible for Listing on the National Register for its unique engineering and construction.



Quarters 12 at Palm Circle National Historic Landmark District.

Archaeological Resources



USAG-HI has identified over 1800 archaeological sites across the island of O‘ahu and Hawai‘i, including a new archaeological district at the Fort DeRussy Military Reservation. Most of the sites are located in the training ranges across the two islands. The CRMP Team is successfully implementing two Programmatic Agreements regarding Routine Military Training Actions on both islands in support of mission readiness. USAG-HI has a high training use rate for the ranges. Monitoring and site protection is carefully coordinated with Range Division Hawaii. In between training periods on the ranges, the USAG-HI CRMP team spends significant time monitoring sites, repairing fences, signage, and Seibert stakes to protect sites. Additional protection measures include creative methods such as the use of sandbags and earthen mounds to protect petroglyphs from blast damage, and the placement of steel ballistic panels to protect sensitive areas.



Cultural resources protection is particularly challenging at USAG-HI due to the risk of encountering MEC in the field. In addition to annual UXO training, the CRMP Team gets annual DU awareness training and are certified to frisk for radiation contamination after visiting DU risk areas. The CRMP Team are also trained to serve as UXO safety escorts for consulting party visitations. The intensive training and coordination with Range Division Hawaii has allowed the CRMP Team the unique advantage of being able to work in duded impact areas along with EOD to successfully protect sites. This unique set of skills has furthered allowed the CRMP team to escort Native Hawaiian traditional cultural practitioners to visit sites of religious and historical significance in the impact areas.



Team member Rob Nethken mapping a site in the duded impact area at Schofield Barracks West Range.

Native Hawaiian Relations and Consultation

The CRMP Team conducts approximately 50 cultural accesses a year for NHOs and lineal descendants to visit sites of traditional, religious, or historic importance. An average of 2 visits a month to Makua Military Reservation were conducted in addition to other site visits throughout O‘ahu and Hawai‘i islands. During the award period, the CRMP Team escorted the Kupuna Council from the Agnes Kalanihookaha Cope Traditional Native Hawaiian Healing Center and the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Center Summer Youth Program out to a location known as the Kolekole Stone and provided a cultural awareness briefing. Additional visits included meeting with a group of lineal descendants of the former ranch at Makua and visiting with NHOs up on Mt Ka‘ala. Visitations with NHOs also occurred at Schofield West Range, Āliamanu Military Reservation, Pōhakuloa Training Area (PTA), Wheeler Army Airfield, Kahuku Training Area, and Dillingham Military Reservation.





In 2023, the CRMP Team partnered with the Hawaiian Civic Club (HCC) of Wahiawā to conduct a Traditional Cultural Practices study for O‘ahu and develop a document to share their knowledge of the traditional, religious, and historic places of significance. This effort will further assist the Garrison in incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into preservation actions.



During the award period, USAG-HI successfully finalized a NAGPRA Plan of Action (POA) concluding with the internment of *iwi kapuna* at PARC. The Team also completed two NAGPRA POA for PTA in consultation with 25 NHOs, and are currently finalizing a fourth POA on O‘ahu at Kahuku Training Area.



Native Hawaiian Organization cultural access to a burial site at Pōhakuloa Training Area.

Curation



USAG-HI manages two curation facilities, one on each island. There are a total of 530 cubic feet of collections holding over 10,000 artifacts. During the award period USAG-HI acquired a new collections storage facility at PTA, and relocated all artifacts from a non-compliant facility to an upgraded climate-controlled, secure location. Twenty-nine boxes of artifacts recovered on State-leased lands were inventoried and separated from

collections on federally owned lands. At Schofield Barracks, sixty-two collections and associated records were re-housed into archival quality storage during the award period, and a new Collections Management Plan has been drafted and is currently under review.

Cultural Resources Awareness and Education

During the award period, the CRMP created a cultural resources awareness video for Soldiers training at USAG-HI. The video is shown monthly at the Range Safety Officer training for Soldiers new to the Garrison. In 2023, the CRMP team worked with the 425th Civil Affairs Battalion in the field at Dillingham Army Airfield and Makua Military Reservation, teaching cultural resources awareness, identification, and appropriate response procedures. Lessons learned can be applied both on home training ranges and lands abroad while deployed. The CRMP also provided cultural resources awareness training for the Natural Resources team at the Garrison.



CRMP Team members providing a cultural awareness briefing at Makua Military Reservation to the 425th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Community Relations



USAG-HI works closely with the caretakers of Kūkaniloko, a sacred site on State lands near Schofield Barracks. The Hawaiian Civic Club of Wahiawā provided a cultural awareness training at the site for new CRMP team members and leaders at the Garrison. CRMP Team members also have volunteered on weekends during the award period for site stewardship assistance for the caretakers.

The Cultural Resources Program Manager, Dave Crowley, provided an educational lecture in coordination with the Pacific Justice and Reconciliation Center for a Birthday Remembrance for Queen Liliuokalani. The lecture highlighted the recognition of her role in supporting the construction of the Soldier's Chapel at Schofield Barracks. The CRMP Team also hosted public access to the Soldier's Chapel and presented a Hawaiian history talk to the Museum Without Walls nonprofit.

During the award period, the CRMP Team assisted the National Park Service with their efforts documenting and interpreting POW camps in Hawaii as part of the mission of the Pearl Harbor National Memorial.



Mission Enhancements

Through the Hawaii Infrastructure Task Force, two CRMP team members are dedicated to review, advise, and consult on over 50 critical infrastructure projects to replace aging water system facilities. This focused approach has helped to streamline the compliance process and expedite the Garrison's ability to move forward quickly on much needed quality of life projects.



USAG-HI is in the planning process for rehabilitating the historic Richardson Theater at Fort Shafter for use as a secure facility with offices and classrooms for

military units. The CRMP program has initiated consultation and a Memorandum of Agreement for the remodel. Work conducted during the award period included 3D scans of the building and the capture of large format black and white photographs for an Historic American Buildings Survey report, to submit to the Library of Congress prior to remodeling the interior of the building. The building is no longer used as a theater, and rehabilitating it as an administrative building while maintaining the exterior and the significance of the building, is a model project for the re-use of an historic facility and a benefit to the Army Mission.



Historic Richardson Theater at Fort Shafter

Conclusion

The USAG-HI Cultural Resources Team manages a large, complex, and active program across two islands outside the continental U.S. During the award period, the CRMP Team was able to achieve success despite staffing shortfalls. The CRMP Team maintained compliance with cultural resources laws and policies, built up and strengthened the program, enhanced the military mission through creative site monitoring and protection methods, as well as the adaptive re-use of buildings, maintained a vital Native Hawaiian relations program and partnered with consulting parties, and participated as valued members of the local community.

